Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. All amendments and cancellations are made without prejudice.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of inhibiting the maturation of an antigen presenting that is a dendritic cell, comprising contacting *in vitro* said antigen presenting cell and an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, for a time and under conditions effective to inhibit maturation of said antigen presenting cell. (if desired, we may cancel this claim here and present "maturation" in vitro and in vivo claims together in a separate case--the Examiner was not willing to allow the *in vivo* maturation claims at this time)

2. (cancelled)

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein inhibition of maturation of said antigen presenting cell is accompanied by a reduction in the level of expression of one or more surface markers selected from the group consisting of CD80, and CD86~~, and MHC II~~ by said antigen presenting cell. (the Examiner argued that the mouse data presented wasn't sufficiently representative of all class II MHC. This is arguable, but I view this as unnecessary in light of the allowability of the main claim.)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein inhibition of maturation of said antigen presenting cell is accompanied by a reduction in the level of expression of one or more cytokines selected from the group consisting of IL6, IL12, interferon alpha, and interferon gamma by said antigen presenting cell.

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (cancelled)

8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A method of ~~inhibiting an inflammatory response~~ increasing the expression of interleukin 10 (IL10) in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

(a) isolating peripheral blood mononuclear cells, or a monocyte-containing fraction thereof, from said mammal;

(b) contacting *in vitro* said isolated peripheral blood mononuclear cells or monocytes and a composition containing an effective amount of cytokines that differentiate monocytes to immature dendritic cells for a time and under conditions effective to generate immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells;

(c) contacting *in vitro* said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells and an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, for a time and under conditions effective to prevent maturation of said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells; and

(d) administering said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells to said mammal, thereby ~~reducing the ability of dendritic cells of said mammal to drive cognate interactions with T cells and inhibiting said inflammatory response~~ increasing the expression of IL10 in said mammal.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein said cytokine composition of step (b) comprises granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor and IL4.

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) A method of ~~inhibiting an inflammatory response~~increasing the expression of interleukin 10 (IL10) in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

administering to said mammal an amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31 effective ~~to prevent dendritic cells or~~

16. (original) The method of claim 15, further comprising contacting said T regulatory cells and IL2 for a time and under conditions effective to expand the number of said T regulatory cells.

17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method of ~~inhibiting an inflammatory response~~increasing the expression of interleukin 10 (IL10) in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

administering to said mammal an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31,

thereby generating T regulatory cells that suppress T effector cells and ~~that inhibit said inflammatory response~~thereby increase the expression of IL10 in said mammal.

19. (currently amended) The method of claim 18, wherein generation of said T regulatory cells is -associated with a lack of maturation of dendritic cells~~or other antigen presenting cells~~.

20. (cancelled)

21. (cancelled)

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein expression of both IL10 and IL19 by said T regulatory cells is upregulated.

23. (original) The method of claim 22, wherein said T regulatory cells are a subset of CD3+ T cells.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein expression of IL17 in said T effector cells is downregulated.

25. (original) The method of claim 24, wherein said T effector cells are a subset of CD3+ T cells.

26. (currently amended) A method of measuring the immunological activity of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31 in a mammal, comprising:

administering the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31~~,~~ to said mammal;

administering Candin to said mammal; and

measuring the inhibition of delayed type hypersensitivity skin lesions elicited by said Candin,

wherein a reduction in lesion size in said mammal compared to lesion size in an untreated control mammal that has not received the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31 indicates ~~that said compounds are effective in inhibiting~~ inhibition of a localized inflammatory response.

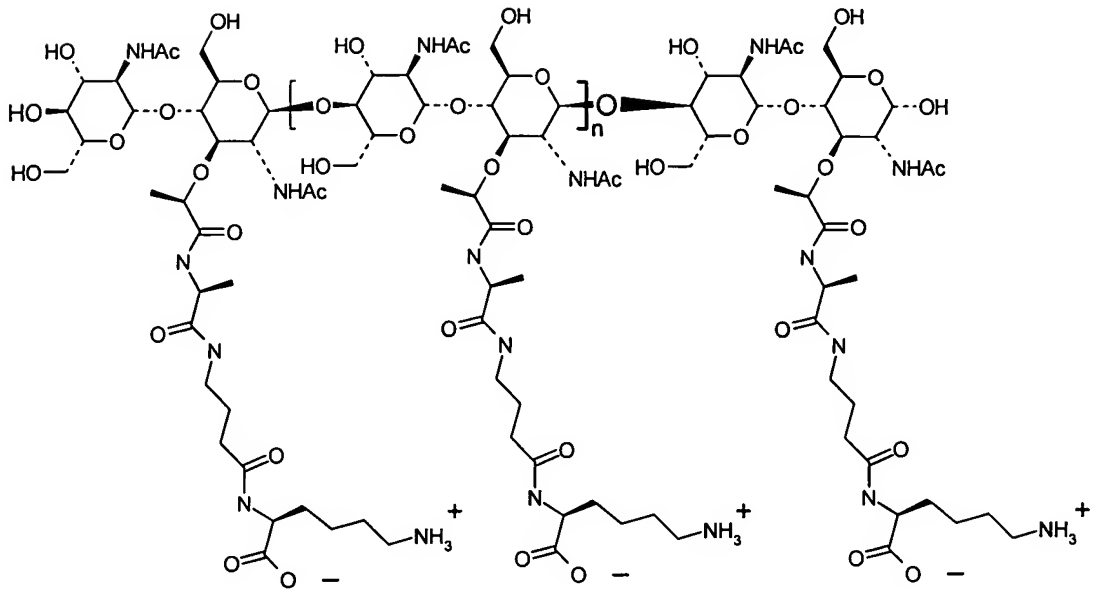
27. (original) The method of claim 26, wherein said immunological activity is the activity of T regulatory cells.

28. (currently amended) The method of claim 26, wherein said immunological activity is associated with inhibition of cognate interactions between ~~antigen presenting~~dendritic cells and naïve T cells.

29. (cancelled)

30. (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A synthetic polymeric antigen having the structure shown in Formula I:



I

where n is an integral in the range of from about 375 to about 75,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

32. (original) A composition, comprising said synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, and a buffer, carrier, diluent, or excipient.

33. (original) A pharmaceutical composition, comprising said synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, and a pharmaceutically acceptable buffer, carrier, diluent, or excipient.

34. (new) A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory response selected from abscess, sepsis, and post-surgical adhesions in a mammal, comprising administering to said mammal an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31.

35. (new) A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory response selected from abscess, sepsis, and post-surgical adhesions in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

(a) isolating peripheral blood mononuclear cells, or a monocyte-containing fraction thereof, from said mammal;

(b) contacting *in vitro* said isolated peripheral blood mononuclear cells or monocytes and a composition containing an effective amount of cytokines that differentiate monocytes to immature dendritic cells for a time and under conditions effective to generate immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells;

(c) contacting *in vitro* said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells and an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, for a time and under conditions effective to prevent maturation of said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells; and

(d) administering said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells to said mammal, thereby increasing IL10 in said mammal.

36. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein said cytokine composition of step (b) comprises granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor and IL4.

37. (new) A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory response selected from abscess, sepsis, and post-surgical adhesions in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

(a) isolating peripheral blood mononuclear cells, or a monocyte- containing fraction thereof, from said mammal;

(b) contacting *in vitro* said isolated peripheral blood mononuclear cells or monocytes and a composition containing an effective amount of cytokines that differentiate monocytes to immature dendritic cells for a time and under conditions effective to generate immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells;

(c) contacting *in vitro* said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells and an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, for a time and under conditions effective to prevent maturation of said immature monocyte-derived dendritic cells;

(d) contacting *in vitro* said immature dendritic cells and naïve T cells to generate T regulatory cells; and

(e) administering said T regulatory cells that suppress T effector cells to said mammal,

thereby increasing IL10 in said mammal.

38. (new) The method of claim 37, further comprising contacting said T regulatory cells and IL2 for a time and under conditions effective to expand the number of said T regulatory cells.

39. (new) A method of treating or preventing an inflammatory response selected from abscess, sepsis, and post-surgical adhesions in a mammal in need thereof, comprising:

administering to said mammal an effective amount of the synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31,

thereby generating T regulatory cells that suppress T effector cells and thereby increase IL10 in said mammal.

40. (new) The method of claim 39, wherein generation of said T regulatory cells is associated with a lack of maturation of dendritic cells.

41. (new) A solution comprising said synthetic polymeric antigen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof of claim 31, and a solvent.

42. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the inflammatory response is abscess.

43. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the inflammatory response is sepsis.

44. (new) The method of claim 34, wherein the inflammatory response is post-surgical adhesions.